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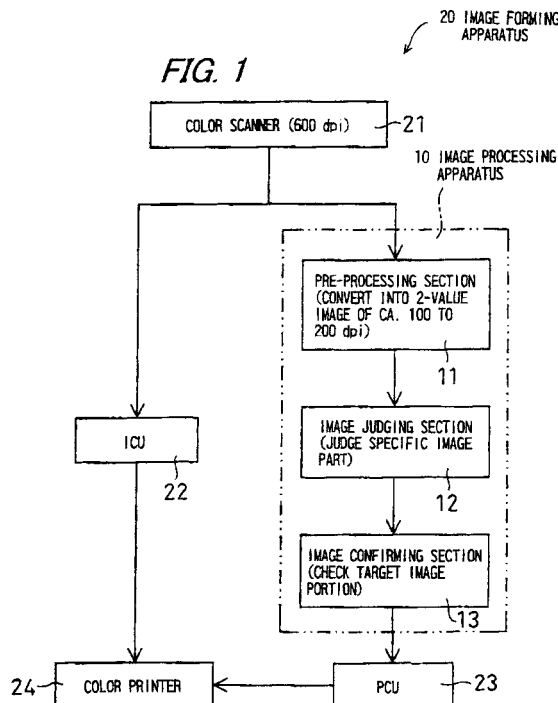
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(54) **Image processing apparatus**

(57) An object of the invention is to provide an image processing apparatus capable of extracting a target image portion included in an image targeted for processing with high accuracy, by reducing a data amount required for extracting the target image portion. The image processing apparatus (10) mounted in the image forming apparatus (20) includes: pre-processing section (11) for converting information for use in image formation into low-volume information for use in image extraction; an image judging section (12) for judging whether or not a specific image part belonging to the target image portion is included in the image targeted for processing; and an image confirming section (13) for checking, when the specific image part is judged to be included in the image targeted for processing, whether or not a potential target image portion including the specific image part is equal to the target image portion.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 02 1353

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Place of search Berlin		Date of completion of the search 22 November 2004	Examiner Waern, G
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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